

REMARKS

Claims 1-52 remain in the application, and claims 1-9, 12-13, 15-16, 18-25, 27, 29-33, 37-41, 43, 45-48, and 50 have been amended hereby.

The claims have been carefully reviewed and amended with particular attention to the points raised in the Office Action. It is submitted that no new matter has been added and no new issues have been raised by the present amendment.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 1, 6, 12, 15, 18-20, 29, 37, and 45 under 35 U.S.C. § 101, as allegedly lacking patentable utility.

In at least one embodiment, the present invention relates to the layout and display of objects, symbols, characters, etc. in a structured document format using an electronic display.

For example, as stated in the specification of the present application "[i]t is therefore an object of the present invention to provide an information processing method and apparatus and a medium whereby the layout of objects, such as characters or characters, figures or symbols used in a computer may be readily changed ..." (see specification of the present application, p. 2, lns. 15-20).

In other embodiments, the present invention may relate to the layout and display of objects in a structured document suited to an electronic book (see id., p. 37, lns. 7-15; Fig. 21), or to a personal computer (see id., p. 39, lns. 3-10; Fig. 22).

It is respectfully submitted that several mechanisms for

rendering a structured document display of a computer, electronic book, or a similar apparatus exist and are well-known in the art.

The claims have been amended in light of the comments of the Office Action. It is respectfully submitted that the presently claimed invention possesses patentable utility under 35 U.S.C. § 101.

Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that when evaluating claim language during examination of an application, the terminology of a claim is required to be given its broadest reasonable interpretation consistent with the specification, and that claim language cannot be read in a vacuum, but instead must be read in light of the specification as it would have been interpreted by one of ordinary skill in the pertinent art. See In re Sneed, 710 F.2d 1544, 218 USPQ 385 (Fed. Cir. 1983); In re Bond, 910 F.2d 831, 15 USPQ2d 1566 (Fed. Cir. 1990); and In re Morris, 127 F.3d 1048, 44 USPQ2d 1023 (Fed. Cir. 1997).

Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 6, 12, 15, 18-20, 29, 37, and 45 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 is respectfully requested.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 1, 3-4, 6, 18, 29, 37, and 45 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention.

The claims have been amended in light of the comments set forth by the Office Action.

Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph is respectfully requested.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 1-52 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,813,018 (Kaji et al.).

Applicants have carefully considered the comments of the Office Action and the cited reference, and respectfully submit that claims 1-52 are patentably distinct over the cited reference for at least the following reasons.

The present invention relates to an information processing method and apparatus. Drawing information including at least one object that can be displayed, information pertinent to the size in the line direction and in the line feed direction of the object, and layout-related information are analyzed. Coordinate information pertinent to a display start position of the object in a drawing area is acquired based on a result of the analysis, the coordinate information pertinent to the display start position is converted based on the layout-related information acquired by the results of analysis, and the converted coordinate information pertinent to the display start position is converted into real drawing coordinate information on the drawing area.

Kaji et al., as understood by Applicants, relates to a document processing method and system for automating pre-processing for figure translation including extraction of source language sentences from figures, and postprocessing in figure translation including embedding of translated sentences in drawings. The pre-processing consists of recognizing regions included in a source figure, extracting a sentence from each region, and extracting the topological characteristics of

the figure. The post-processing consists of enlarging or shrinking each sentence display region according to the change of the sentence length by translation, and generating a figure that preserves the extracted topological characteristics and includes the enlarged/shrunken sentence display regions.

The Office Action cites col. 3, lns. 56-66 of Kaji et al. as allegedly disclosing an information processing method including, inter alia, a step of analyzing drawing information including layout designating information for specifying a relative position direction with respect to a direction of arranging an object; and col. 7, lns. 25-31 and col. 7, ln. 58 to col. 8, ln. 12 of Kaji et al. as allegedly disclosing the generation of a real display position corresponding to the layout designating information obtained by the analysis of the drawing information (see Office Action, p. 4, lns. 3-13).

As understood by Applicants, the first section of Kaji et al. referred to above relates to the reading of handwritten figures as binary image data of a drawing (see Kaji et al., col. 3, lns. 56-66). The binary image data are then analyzed, characters are recognized, and sentences are extracted (see id.). Shape information is extracted from the data, and the size of the drawing area and placement of sentences in the drawing are determined (see id.).

The above steps allow for automatic scaling (enlargement/reduction) functions that are necessary for embedding text and modifying drawings (see id., col. 4, lns. 20-27). The modified drawing takes over the topology, shape, and visual characteristics of the source drawing (see id., lns.

15-17).

As stated in Kaji et al. "[i]n the method and the system used to input a handwritten figure, a handwritten figure is read as binary image data, and the drawing and characters are recognized. Then, the region created by the recognized drawing is identified and the sentences are extracted from the recognized characters in reference to the identified region. Then, the topology and shape information are extracted from the recognized drawing, and the size of the display region for each extracted sentence and the local placement of the sentence in the display region are determined. After this, the positions of both the line segments comprising the drawing, and the display regions for the sentences are determined according to the extracted topology and shape of information, as well as the sizes of the display regions. The placement of the characters is then determined according to the position of the display regions and the local placement of the sentences in the display regions" (see id., col. 3, ln. 56 to col. 4, ln. 6) (emphasis supplied).

That is, as understood by Applicants, the system of Kaji et al. provides for automatic enlargement and reduction of text and figures. The position and orientation of reproduced text is determined by the recognized drawing region, the position of the display regions, and the location of the sentences within the display regions.

It is respectfully submitted that Kaji et al. does not disclose analyzing drawing information including information of at least one object and layout designating information

specifying a relative position direction with respect to a direction of arranging the object within an electronic structured document, where the relative position direction may be vertical or horizontal.

In contrast, as recited in amended independent claim 1, in the present invention a relative position direction is specified in layout designating information, the layout designating information being included in drawing information along with information of at least one object. The relative position direction may be vertical or horizontal.

It is respectfully submitted that the present invention discloses allowing a command text to be used for both vertically-arrayed and horizontally-arrayed text, and allowing for convenient conversion of vertically-arrayed text to horizontally-arrayed text and vice versa (see specification of the present application, p. 2, lns. 15-20).

In the present invention the drawing information is analyzed to specify a relative position direction with respect to an arranging direction, a relative placing position is determined, and real display position information is generated based upon the relative placing position and the arranging direction.

It is respectfully submitted that Kaji et.al. does not disclose or suggest an information processing method for processing a display of a plurality of objects within an electronic structured document to allow a command text to be used for both vertically-arrayed text and horizontally-arrayed text, the method comprising the steps of analyzing drawing

information including information of at least one object that can be displayed and layout designating information for specifying a relative position direction with respect to a direction of arranging the object within the electronic structured document, determining a relative placing position of the object in a desired drawing area of the electronic structured document based on layout definition information corresponding to the obtained layout designating information, generating object display position information corresponding to the relative placing position of the object responsive to the arranging direction, and displaying the object within the electronic structured document, wherein the relative position direction is one of vertical and horizontal, as described above and as recited in amended independent claim 1.

Accordingly, for at least the above-stated reasons, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent claim 1 and the claims depending therefrom are patentable over the cited reference. Amended independent claims 6, 12, 15, 18-20, 29, 37, and 45, and the claims depending therefrom, are believed to be patentable over the cited reference for at least similar reasons.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-52 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is respectfully requested.

The references cited as of interest have been reviewed, but are not seen to show or suggest the present invention as recited in the amended claims.

Should the Examiner disagree, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specify where in the cited document there is


a basis for such disagreement.

Entry of this amendment is earnestly solicited, and it is respectfully submitted that this amendment raises no new issues requiring further consideration and/or search, because the functional aspects of the invention have merely been clarified in the amended claims.

The Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required in connection with this amendment and to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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